

## ***Wendy Muldoon***

1995	Racewalking World Cup	Beijing	10 km	53 <sup>rd</sup>	47.56
1997	Racewalking World Cup	Prague	10 km	60 <sup>th</sup>	47:20
1999	Racewalking World Cup	Mezidon	20 km	87 <sup>th</sup>	1:46:25



**Wendy in 1999 at the World Cup in Mezidon**

Born on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1971, Wendy Muldoon started racewalking in Little Athletics in the Under 7 division when she joined the Alan Johnson stable. She stayed with Alan through her underage career but did not start training seriously until the Under 14 age group. Other coaching influences in later years were Ken Walters and Harry Summers.

During the 1980's, she regularly collected minor placings in Federation and All Schools championships. But titles were hard fought as this was a very strong era when many talented junior walkers were coming through.

She had collected 11 medals at Australian underage, School and Federation level by 1988. After winning silver at the Australian Under 16 1500m title (**6:50**), she won the Under 17 Schools 6 km title (**30:47**) and the Federation under 17 5 km. Her 1988 Australian Under 18 8 km title victory (**40:49**) was the best on record.

In 1989, she won the Australian Junior 10 km road title in **53:24** yet for the next couple of years, she was unable to win further Junior title medals even though her times were improving. In her last Junior title, she finished 4<sup>th</sup> in **24:20** in the Australian 5000m track title.

In 1990, she was part of the Australian team that went to Europe to compete in the Eight Nations Meeting. In this event, Wendy came 19<sup>th</sup> in **25:04** in the Junior Girls 5 km walk. She went again the next year and returned to Europe once again in 1992 when she raced in La Corona in Spain and Besacon in France where she reduced her 5000m time to **23:40**.

During the next couple of years, she continued to improve and to test herself out over the longer distances, winning a number of Victorian titles. Perhaps her best performance in this period was in June 1993 when she set a new Victorian Open 20,000m track walk record at the Collingwood track with a time of **1:39:00.3**. With this walk, she became the

first Victorian woman to break 100 minutes for the 20 km distance. She continued on to set a new Victorian 2 Hour track record of 22.806 km.

In April 1994, she came 8<sup>th</sup> in the Commonwealth Games 10 km road walk trial in **48:27**. She then followed this up with a fine 4<sup>th</sup> in the Racewalking World Cup trial in Canberra in December with a PB of **47:25**. This gained her a first Australian vest and in May 1995, she came 53<sup>rd</sup> in the Racewalking World Cup in Beijing in a fine time of **47:56**.

In March 1996, she came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Olympic trial in Sydney in **46:24**, just 2 seconds behind Jane Saville. As both she and Jane were outside the tough Olympic standard of 45:30, Wendy travelled to Europe in a bid to further impress the selectors. She finally recorded her qualifier with **45:25** in Eisenhutenstat but once again finished a few seconds behind Jane. This meant that Jane was selected ahead of Wendy who was one of only a very small number of A grade qualifiers to miss out on Olympic selection.

In 1997, she earned her second International vest, coming 5<sup>th</sup> in **46:18** in February in the Australian 10 km road title and World Cup trial. She followed this up the next month with 7<sup>th</sup> in the Australian 5000m track title in **23:20**. Her 60<sup>th</sup> place in Prague was achieved with a typically gutsy time of **47:20**. Returning to Australia, she followed up with 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Australian title in **1:38:39** and recorded **1:35:49** in Victoria to lead the National 20 km rankings.

1998 was a big year with a Commonwealth Games berth on offer and Wendy responded with some magnificent walks. In March, she finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Australian 5000m track title in a fast **22:51**. Her winter season then showed a confident buildup to the trial with wins in the VRWC club 10 km title (**45:49**) and the Victorian 15 km title (**69:58**) in June and a PB in July in winning the Victorian 10 km title (**45:22**). But disaster struck in the trial that was held in Sydney on August 8. There Wendy faltered in adverse conditions and faded to a time of over 49 minutes. A week later on August 16, she bounced back with a great 20 km win in the Victorian 20 km title in a PB time of **1:34:35**. Alas the selectors were unmoved and she had to face the reality that she had blown her Commonwealth Games chances.

It was at least some consolation when, 2 weeks later, she won her first Australian Open title, the Australian 20 km, in hot conditons in **1:43:02**. But she could only watch the action at Kuala Lumpur some months later when Kerry Saxby and Jane Saville fought out the gold.

In 1999, she won her second National title, the inaugural Australian 15 km roadwalk championship with **74:49**. That same year, she was also 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Australian 10000m track title in **46:24**. She was also selected for her third Racewalking World Cup with a trial time of **1:37:10** but her preformance at Mezidon was not up to her normally high standard.

For the next few years, Wendy continued to race on the local Victorian front but not with the same intensity. Work and personal life eventually become considerations and she quietly retired from serious competition in 2003. She now restricts herself to the occasional Interclub appearance.

Her PBs are very impressive

<b>12:51</b>	3000m track walk
<b>22:21</b>	5000m track walk
<b>45:22</b>	10 km
<b>1:34:35</b>	20 km.